

Message Text

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64

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:REBARBOUR:LM

APPROVED BY EUR: A. A. HARTMAN

S/S-O: A.OTTO

S:RAHERNE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100377 TOSEC 110092

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - EMBASSY ROME:
CONTACT WITH PCI (S/S 7608660)

REF: SECTO 11033

1. I HAVE CONFIRMED TODAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO
EXPANSION IN ROME'S CONTACTS WITH PCI AND THE EMBASSY
KNOWS ;ONE IS AUTHORIZED.

2. ITALIAN PRESS ARTICLE CITED IN YOUR MESSAGE PROBABLY
REFERS TO HOAGLAND PIECE IN APRIL 19 WASHINGTON POST.
HOAGLAND UROTE: "THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNISTS
HERE HAS FORCED AMERICAN DIPLOMATS TO TAKE THEM MORE
SERIOUSLY. OPERATING UNDER GUIDELINES FROM WASHINGTON,
A POLITICAL OFFICER IN THE EMBASSY HAS REGULAR MEETINGS
WITH MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN ROME
TO DISCUSS THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. THIS
REPRESENTS A RECENT UPGRADING OF THE LEVEL OF COMMUNIST
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OFFICIALS THE EMBASSY SEES ON A FORMAL BASIS...."

3. ACTUAL SITUATION IS THAT FOR PAST SIX OR SEVEN YEARS THE EMBASSY HAS HAD AUTHORITY FOR ONE JUNIOR POLITICAL OFFICER TO MEET WITH SERGIO SEGRE, PCI FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICER. THESE MEETINGS ARE NOT FREQUENT BUT HAVE BEEN USEFUL BECAUSE OF SEGRE'S WILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST INSTITUTIONS LIKE ECCP. I THINK THAT THIS CONTACT SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

4. THESE MEETINGS WERE SO UNSATISFACTORY TO PCI THAT LAST YEAR IT EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF ITS AMERICAN CONTACTS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE. ALTHOUGH VOLPE BELIEVED LAST YEAR THAT CONTACTS SHOULD BE INCREASED, WE REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE IT. INSTEAD HE WAS TOLD TO MAINTAIN THE PRACTICE OF PREVIOUS YEARS WHICH HE HAS DONE.

5. IF YOU AGREE, I SHALL SEE THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

6. DRAFTED: EUR/WE: REBARBOUR:LM APPROVED: EUR: AHARTMAN
S:RAHERNE EAGLEBURGER

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